

Redeemer Review

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

February, 2009

From our Interim Vicar:

AREA MINISTRY AND CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Dear Friends,

Our Church of the Redeemer has been invited to explore Area Ministry in our neighborhood and in the larger community of San Rafael. Area Ministry is theologically “based in the Baptismal Covenant, seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, striving for justice and peace among all people, and respecting the dignity of every human being. Area Ministry calls us out of a mindset of scarcity, reflected in parochial competitiveness and isolation, to one of abundance, where leadership is distributed in a balanced and generative way, shared by clergy and lay leaders. Cooperation helps us turn outward in service and love to our communities.”

One of the early stages of Redeemer’s process has been when the Bishop’s Committee participated in the “Advent Bible Study for Area Ministry” in December. From those meetings, a Discernment Committee has been called to serve Redeemer to realize how we can express Area Ministry in San Rafael and also proceed with the search for a permanent Vicar.

These are (with thanks) the members of the Discernment Committee:

Alex Kennison, Richard Losey, Cindy Poulos, Jim Providenza, John Westmoreland, Paula Zand, and Cindy Smith who will serve as the committee’s secretary as needed.

At our recent annual meeting, I produced the following list of all the activities at Redeemer that would come under the heading of “Area Ministry.” I think that when you review this list, you will notice that Redeemer is already participating in Area Ministry. It is not an abstract concept for our community, but one that we already embrace as part of our ministry as a spiritual community. Please read and imagine any other activities that we may do in the future that will reach out to the neighborhood of Glenwood and the community of San Rafael. Please save your ideas for our upcoming Town Hall meetings!

Reaching Out to the Neighborhood and Community of San Rafael

- 1) Marin County Food Bank – We and neighbors drop-off donations of food.
- 2) Ritter Center Coat Drive – We and neighbors drop-off donations of coats.
- 3) Parenting Today Forum – Reaching out to the neighborhood, preschool and San Rafael parents and families. (Mary Sparks).
- 4) “Get Ready Marin” – Disaster preparedness training for the neighborhood and community of San Rafael.
- 5) Kids’ Karnival – Welcoming children from the neighborhood, preschool and community of San Rafael.
- 6) “Beatles” Service – Welcoming the neighborhood and preschool.
- 7) Neighborhood’s Kids’ Choir – includes kids from neighborhood and Redeemer; under the direction of Cindy Chung - both Youth Ministry and Area Ministry.

- 8) Christmas Eve Service and Fourth Sunday Advent Christmas Music Service – Kids’ and adult choir attracted neighbors, parents and families from the neighborhood and San Rafael.
- 9) Christmas Caroling at Redeemer – with Glenwood Homeowners’ Association, neighbors and Redeemer members.
- 10) Preschool Christmas Pageant - Welcomed preschool parents and families.
- 11) 4th Sunday Service at Tamalpais Retirement Center – Outreach every month to community of Marin. (Rich Atkinson).
- 12) Cub Scouts at Redeemer – Neighborhood and San Rafael. (Richard Losey).

Blessings -

Father Mark

Senior Warden’s Letter

This is the last newsletter when I write to you as Senior Warden. It's been an "other than average" year (!), both in my personal life and the life of Redeemer. Like many of you, I have sometimes met the challenges well and other times have been overwhelmed.

During the past year we have seen Sallie and Chuck Wood move to their beautiful, warm new home in Kenwood; Elliott and Liesje Blank moved to Redding (and Elliott has already been asked to join the Vestry at their new church!); and this month we will bid "farewell" to Cathy and Wayne Kirk as they move to their dream home recently constructed on Orcas Island in Washington. As we rejoice in these new beginnings - we do note the loss of these people from our pews.

Bishop's Committee

At the annual meeting we gave thanks and bid farewell to Eileen Erler, Betsy Nakamura and John Chung who have each completed three years of service. Please join me in thanking each of them for their service to our Church Community.

On the day of the Annual Meeting we were fortunate to have, what was for most of us, our first experience with Godly Play - thanks to Wendy Cliff who told the Creation Story in Godly Play format.

Billie Barbash and Gail Spencer were welcomed to three year terms on the Bishop's Committee, and Father Mark announced the appointment of Greg Poulos as Senior Warden.

Area Ministry

None of us knew what this phrase meant when we first heard it, BUT, if you were at the Annual Meeting you would have seen the incredible list of the many ways that Redeemer has reached out to San Rafael and other Marin communities, which is what “Area Ministry” is all about. (See the list under Fr. Mark’s letter.)

Beyond that, we at Redeemer have been learning to intentionally invite our community to partner with us in many areas - food and clothing for the needy, Cub Scouts using our facility, neighborhood kids and adults in special choirs, and preparedness training programs. The ongoing Parenting Forum series spearheaded by Mary Sparks is another successful program that is providing parenting skills to parents, grandparents and preschool professionals.

All of this is AREA MINISTRY! Congratulations to all who have participated in any way and special thanks to our Homeowners Association who has been so helpful in getting the word out!

Discernment/Search Committee

As part of the search process we are examining what is important to the people of Redeemer. Everyone has the opportunity to be a part of this process as each of us has the chance to share what we want to keep, what we might like to add or change. Look for the sheets of paper on the back walls of the church which ask pertinent questions that will help the committee define “who we are.”

Many thanks to all of our dedicated people here at Redeemer!

Sue Clark

Please note: **Greg Poulos**, our new Sr. Warden, can be reached at 258-0960, or email gpoulos@cwghp.com



A Service of Healing and Reconciliation

Sunday February 22nd, at 10:00 am

A **Godly Play Story** – A Story of Healing from the Bible – Told by Wendy Cliff, Godly Play Teacher.

Healing is central to the Gospel: healing the relationship between God and humankind is the very essence of Christ’s work in his life, death and resurrection.

During his ministry, Jesus healed lepers, blind men, the lame, the demon-possessed and even raised the dead. Episcopal priest and author Morton Kelsey identifies 41 such instances in his book *Healing and Christianity*. Jesus involved his disciples in the work of healing; the book of Acts contains accounts of healing by Christ’s followers, and the epistles of Paul discuss healing as a gift of the Spirit. In the early church for nearly 300 hundred years, physical healing was an integral component of Christian life and faith as a sign of God’s love, compassion, and care.

In the mid-19th century, people began to reaffirm the relationships between mind, emotions, body, and spirit - between faith and health. Today, while an holistic, integrated view of health emerges in medicine, a renewed church is opening up space for the Holy Spirit to move powerfully in the lives of the faithful in the ministry of healing.

Please take the time to attend this service and come forward to receive a blessing or healing prayer. I think that this will be a beneficial experience for the Redeemer community at this time.

Father Mark

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday February 25th

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the season of Lent, which is the penitential period of 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Lent lasts for forty days because, according to biblical accounts, Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days of fasting, meditation and reflection before beginning his ministry. Lent is a time when many Christians throughout the world prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

We will have two services on Ash Wednesday - at 12:00 noon, and 7:00 pm. Each service will include the Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes. The ashes are placed on our foreheads in the shape of the cross - they are a sign of our mortality and our need for repentance.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Katie Clark
- 3 Jim Providenza
- 10 Betty Baird
- 10 Helene Erler
- 11 Mike Providenza
- 13 John Clark
- 14 Joe Garbarino
- 15 Dana Clark
- 18 Isabelle Ellingson-Moody
- 26 Nicholas Duro
- 28 Carl T. Schuler



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY

- 14 Lesley Anderson/Paula Zand 1993

WEDNESDAY WOMEN’S BOOKCLUB

March 11th: *Little Heathens* by Mildred Armstrong Kalish; at Betty Baird’s home (457-8543) at noon.

The hostess provides drinks and dessert. Attendees should bring a sandwich and RSVP to the hostess each month.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting
Church of the Redeemer
January 25, 2009**

Present: The Rev. Mark Ruyak, Linda Fox, Sue Clark, Kelly Mason, Nellie Pamatmat, Ann Zolezzi, Mollie Taylor, Gail Spencer, Joan Westmoreland, John Westmoreland, Jim Providenza, Cindy Poulos, Greg Poulos, Eileen Erler, Paula Zand, Mary Sparks, Kim Johnson, and Kit Culleton.

Financial Report:

Linda Fox, treasurer, reporting on our church's financial health, noted that last year we received 32 pledges totaling \$89k, and collected \$86k. This year we are budgeting \$75k for pledge income; we have so far received 34 pledges totaling \$66k. At first glance our Stewardship results may seem disappointing, but this year we faced two big challenges when our pledge drive kicked off – further decline in our congregation numbers, coupled with the economic impacts most of us have been touched by. If you still haven't pledged, we can still use your help to bring us closer to our pledge budget total.

In 2008, operating expenses came in at \$118,201 which was close to \$7k less than the previous year. The primary reason it was lower was because we did not have a salaried priest full year. For 2009 we expect operating expenses will be \$132k and our expenses will exceed income by close to \$43k. Linda outlined a plan to reallocate some revenues from Preschool rent to the operating fund, rather than to the loan payoff. She recommended adopting the plan that would have the loan paid off in 2020, and would reallocate \$41,850 towards operating expenses.

Kit Culleton moved to pass the financial report as it stands and to request the recommended change in loan payoff from the Diocese. Greg Poulos seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

Bishop's Committee: Thanks offered to outgoing members. Billie Barbash and Gail Spencer have each been nominated for a three year term. One position is still vacant.

Greg Poulos made a motion to approve the appointment of Billie Barbash to the committee, Kit Culleton seconded; motion passed unanimously. Kim Johnson moved to approve the appointment of Gail Spencer to the committee; Greg Poulos seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Convention: Delegates for this year are: Joan Westmoreland, Kelly Mason and Paula Zand. Eileen Erler will be an alternate. One more alternate needed. Anyone

interested should contact Father Mark.

Sr. Warden's Report: Sue expressed the challenge presented to our congregation due to change. We have lost some key members and will remember them with much fondness: The Blanks, Woods, and Kirks, (leaving us 3 LEM's shy) and Nellie Pamatmat.

At the same time, we have maintained a strong commitment to our community through the efforts of many:

Linda Fox for coordinating the coat drive; the Chungs for all of the music that has enriched our lives; the Discernment Committee: Richard Losey, Paula Zand, Jim Providenza, Cindy Poulos, John Westmoreland and Alex Kennison – they have been called to find us a new permanent vicar.

There is an upcoming Vestry Day Program that all are invited to, especially the Bishop's Committee. It will be on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 8:30-1 at Grace Cathedral and expenses will be paid by Redeemer.

Interim Priest's Report: Father Mark outlined the charge presented to us by the diocese and showed how very well we are doing on this path. Among Michael Barlowe's goals for our congregation over the last year: Area Ministry; further nurturing of our relationship with the Preschool; looking at options for Kids Church; continuing to nurture our relationship to the community; Christian formation for adults.

Fr. Mark outlined the Bishop Committee's goals for 2008 and how well we've done. We have:

1. begun the search for a permanent vicar
2. launched a Parenting Lecture series
3. had a successful Kids' Karnival both in revenue and as a community builder.
4. built a youth ministry with neighboring parishes
5. increased Sunday attendance by 10%
6. offered a confirmation class with other parishes (out of 12 confirmed at Grace, 5 of the participants were from our confirmation class.)

2008 also brought us four baptisms and two funerals at Redeemer.

Some highlights of our services included the Christmas Music Sing-A-Long which 95 people attended, and the Christmas Eve choir service which 110 people attended.

The Bishop's Committee held a retreat where we looked at our strengths through the process of "Appreciate Inquiry", and how we might build upon those strengths. It was clear that a strength of ours lies in our gift to children, and the fact that we offer a warm and welcoming message that accepts all levels of faith.

The Discernment Committee has been formed and will hold a Town Meeting in a few weeks to gather input from the congregation.

Fr. Mark outlined the direction towards **Area Ministry** that the Diocese is moving towards and stated that Redeemer is really at the focus of their plan. Fr. Mark outlined all of the ways that we are already involved in this ministry.

Some additions were offered from the floor: yard sale; pancake breakfast; Chinese New Year celebration; spaghetti dinner; Ritter backpack program; and the Preschool itself!

Greg Poulos reminded us that the Diocese appreciates our strengths and sees us as leaders in the Diocese. Greg offered the idea that sometimes “our biggest threat to success is our perception of ourselves.”

Adult Christian Formation: Fr. Mark is planning a Lenten Bible Study series similar to the one offered during Advent. The former series was held three times at Redeemer, and was a great outreach program.

New Senior Warden: Fr. Mark is pleased to name Greg Poulos as his Senior Warden. The congregation was happy to support this news.

Music & Liturgy: Paula Zand represented the committee; members include Paula, Joan Westmoreland, Billie Barbash, and Linda Fox. Their accomplishments include: a list of positive attributes and things to explore; they have attended services at other churches in Marin; they have determined what we have now is very good. The committee plans to solicit feedback/suggestions at the next Town Hall meeting. Some changes have been implemented – kids are doing the readings at 9:15; chant music at the 10:30 service. Future changes will likely be very small. We need to recognize the issue of getting the high school age group engaged, and need to determine how best to draw them into the 10:30 service.

Publicity: Kim Johnson provided an update regarding development of a trifold brochure. This has been a struggle. She is still not clear on what we need to include and is trying to get support from the Diocese to provide a generic template from which we can build.

Altar Guild: Eileen Erler reported that the Altar Guild has one new member, Kelly Mason, who is in training. With Sallie Wood gone and Cathy Kirk and Nellie Pamatmat away for six months of the year, we really need two new members. Also, the new flower donation rate was implemented in January (\$80/2 arrangements.)

Acolyte Training: Paula Zand has trained 6-7 new acolytes and two more are coming up.

Other Items Discussed: Kim Johnson is talking to Theresa regarding implementing a big brother/big sister program with the Preschool. Kelly Mason has a group of teenagers looking for a mission trip. Mark will look into programs sponsored by the Diocese that we might be able to leverage.



SAINTS AND ANGELS

(Every now and then we pause to thank those people in our church who have gone that “extra mile” to make Redeemer a better place.)

Thanks to Andrew, Chris and Stevie Burton under the supervision of Bob Burton for lovingly and repeatedly repairing the crèche in front of the church this past holiday season.

Linda Fox for coordinating the coat drive.

John and Cindy Chung for all of the music that has enriched our lives.

For saying “Yes!”, the Discernment Committee: Richard Losey, Paula Zand, Jim Providenza, Cindy Poulos, John Westmoreland and Alex Kennison.

(If there’s someone in the community whom you think should be recognized for their contribution to the life of Redeemer, please let us know! Contact Fr. Mark at the church.)

People in the Pews

Jack Baird is at Smith Ranch Care Center convalescing after a bout of pneumonia.

Vera Hamady has moved from San Rafael to 510 Main Street, Sausalito CA 94965, phone remains 635-4289

John and Joan Westmoreland are proud new grandparents - Kate Westmoreland entered our world at 7lbs, 13 oz, 21 inches on January 29th. ...*ps.* *congratulations to the parents: (former Redeemer*

acolyte) Alex and Tasha Westmoreland!

Wayne and Cathy Kirk's new address is: PO Box 558, 1554 Foster Point Road, Orcas, WA 98280-0558. Phone: (360) 376-1013. Please let us know if you will be in the area – we'd love to see you!

FROM THE DIOCESE

Giving Away Your Home, A Brick At a Time

Recently I took a donor to lunch who has given 20% of his house to his parish. "The upstairs bathroom? The hall closet? The garage?" you may well wonder. Let me explain.

A person can irrevocably assign a portion (what attorneys refer to as "an undivided partial interest") of the ownership of his or her residence to a charitable organization such as the church. At the same time, the donor can continue to live in his or her home as before and, in fact, will still be responsible for all the same upkeep, real estate tax and insurance expenses as before.

"Why might a person do this?" you may wonder. The answer is: to make a gift to the church upon death while significantly lowering their current income taxes.

The twenty-percent of this donor's home is actually the total of a series of percentage gifts made over a period of years. "Our finances have become quite tight," the donor confessed. "And these gifts to the church every few years have really increased our disposable income by significantly reducing the taxes that we have to pay." Their CPA calculates the percentage gift that will produce the most usable tax deduction. The gift qualifies for a charitable income tax deduction.

"We are also thrilled to know that one day when our home is sold, the proceeds will create a perpetual endowment to support our parish," added his wife.

Here's a gift that can increase current after-tax disposable income while insuring a permanent legacy of love. A portion of your home can make a huge difference when you no longer need it.

For more information about giving your home away "a brick at a time" contact your Gift Planning Officer at Richards@diocal.org or (415) 869-7812.

Vestry Training Day 2009

A day of training for members of vestries, bishop's committees, rectors, vicars, treasurers, and all people

interested in improving their leadership abilities in congregational life and ministry. Sponsored by the Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe and the Congregational Ministries working group of the Diocese of California. Topics include the spiritual, legal, and canonical aspects of serving on a vestry or bishop's committee; how to build healthy relationships between clergy and lay leadership in the congregation; conflict resolution; planning for growth; and standards of financial and administration practice in a congregation.

When: Saturday, February 21, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Wilsey Conference Center, [Grace Cathedral](#), 1100 California Street, San Francisco

Cost: \$30 per congregation or \$10 per person

Link: To register, www.diocal.org/vestryday

Contact: Monica Burden, monicab@diocal.org

Richard Rohr gives talk "Contemplation (and Action) in the 21st Century"

Richard Rohr OFM, internationally recognized author and spiritual teacher, a Franciscan of the New Mexico province and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, will explore the little known or understood role of silent prayer (Contemplation) in the 21st Century, suggesting that in relating to God in this way, one is gradually open and capable of becoming a new person, seeing the world with the eyes and heart of Christ, relating to all peoples in oneness of spirit and therefore encouraging and nurturing one's everyday actions to grow out of and be guided by this spiritual transformation. Please note: organizations and prayer groups purchasing 6 or more paid tickets at one time will receive one free admission. Please specify names of attendees with each check.

When: Sunday, February 22, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Where: St. Ignatius Church, 650 Parker Avenue

Cost: Suggested donation \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. Scholarships available. All University and high school students in the Bay Area admitted free with student ID.

Contact: Mary Wyman, mary.wyman@yahoo.com, 415.431.8590

Finding God in the silence: a mini-retreat with centering prayer

Concurrent adult, youth and child programs. Adult program: introduction to centering prayer, led by the Rev. Matt McDermott and the Rev. Coryl Lassen; followed by centering prayer practice, interspersed with silent walking meditation. Youth program:

contemplation for teens, led by the Rev. Austin Leininger. Children's program: world peace village, presented by the Child and Family Institute.

When: Saturday, February 28, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with optional bag lunch afterward

Where: [Trinity](#), 330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park

Cost: voluntary donation

Contact: Dick Tingey, dtingey@aol.com

Embracing loss: lay pastoral care with the bereaved

A four-part workshop series sponsored by St. John's Oakland and led by the Rev. Roy Gesley, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and a certified Grief Counselor. For eight years Roy has trained volunteers and staff affiliated with the Kaiser Permanente Hospice Program in Oakland. This workshop will prepare laypersons to understand the grief process, to learn how to support those facing loss, and to explore the spiritual context for this responsibility -- through experiential exercises, lecture, discussion and theological reflection, and homework. Includes the 116-page **Guidebook to Embracing Loss**.

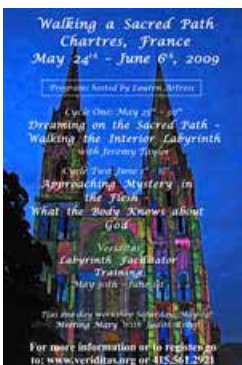
When: Thursdays in March (March 5, 12, 19, and 26), 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where: [St. John's](#), 1707 Gouldin Rd., Oakland

Cost: \$30 early registration (until February 7); \$35 thereafter. Scholarships are available. February 7 for early registration. Please direct checks to St. John's Oakland, Attn. Sandra Ahn

Contact: Sandra Ahn, sjahn_vienna@yahoo.com, 510.290.2850.

Walking a sacred path at Chartres Cathedral, France



Join us on pilgrimage to the charming medieval village of Chartres, France, for a program of self-reflection, tours of the world-renowned Cathedral, and a private candlelit walk on the "mother of all" labyrinths. Live a short distance from the cathedral in the medieval and renovated "Seminary" literally in the shadow of one of the remaining active spiritual sites in the world. This two week program is hosted by Lauren Artress with guest faculty including

Jeremy Taylor, *Dreaming on the Sacred Path: Walking the Interior Labyrinth* and Alan Jones & Barbara Brown Taylor, *Approaching Mystery in the Flesh: What the Body Knows about God*. Participants are also invited to a Veriditas Labyrinth Facilitator Training with Lauren Artress and *Meeting Mary* with Judith Tripp. Participants may join for all or part of the program. Tuition includes all program costs: morning seminars, small group

discussion, an opening reception, a closing dinner, a tour of the crypt, a tour of the cathedral and leisure hours spent in the enchanting Medieval village that surrounds the magnificent Cathedral of Our Lady of Chartres.

When: Sunday, May 24 through Saturday, June 6

Contact: For more information or to register:

www.veriditas.org, 415.561.2921

St. Dorothy's Rest summer camp 2009 registration now open

St. Dorothy's Rest offers a unique summer camp experience to youth, ages 5-15, in the Diocese of California as well as offering free camp programs for critically ill youth from bay area hospitals. Download [registration forms](#) and [session dates](#) here or from our website: www.stdorothysrest.org. No child is ever turned away from St. Dorothy's Rest due to inability to pay.

Contact: For more information, contact Ben Evenbeck, Director of Programs, sdr@monitor.net, 707.874.3319

REDEEMER SERVICE CALENDAR

SUNDAY SERVICES

- 9:15 Kids' Church for children and their families
- 10:30 Holy Communion with music

Healing prayers are offered at the left hand of the altar rail after Communion at the end of each service.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 10:30-11:30

Please note:

The deadline for submissions for the March *Redeemer Review* is Wednesday, February 25th.

Please send your news to Sue Clark at sueclarkca@aol.com

"The Gospel of Christ has been placed in our hands, as it was placed in the hands of the early Church. Like those early disciples we have set before us a choice. We can allow the Gospel to stay in our homes, unobserved and unheard. Or, we can take the Gospel wherever we go. It's not a door-to-door mission with Bible in hand. Rather it is the loving choices, the respectful silences,

and the words of hope we offer at a supermarket, on the soccer field, in the board room. Through the centuries, the spread of the Gospel depended on the willingness of Christians to take the Good News wherever they went. They were not forced; they were empowered by love. The future stands before us. What if the spread of the Gospel depended solely on you?"

"Lord, wherever my journey takes me this day, let the Gospel be seen in me."